

## News

## Breaking News

## Concerns &amp; Celebrations

## Conference News &amp; Announcements

## News From Local Congregations

## Resources

## Newsletter

## Voices &amp; Visions

December/January 2009  
 Oct/Nov 2008  
 August/Sept 2008  
 June/July 2008  
 February/March 2008  
 December/January 2008  
 Aug/Sept 2007  
 June/July 2007  
 April/May 2007  
 February/March 2007  
 December/January 2007  
 August/September 2006  
 June/July 2006  
 February/March 2006  
 October 2005  
 July 2005  
 February 2005  
 August 2005  
 May 2005  
 January/February 2005

## Search SEC Website



## Join Our Email List

Email:

Privacy by SafeSubscribe<sup>SM</sup>

## News from Local Congregations

**Peace Congregational UCC, Clemson, SC, Pastor Susie Smith**, has begun a ministry to those who have been severely affected by the current economic crisis. Here is a link to news of this ministry:  
<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2009/jan/09/church-bringing-people-together-weather-economic-s>.

**Kirkwood UCC, Atlanta, Pastor Susannah Davis**, announced that they have outgrown their current worshipping space, and have had 100 people in worship in December.



Pleasant Hill Community Church

**Pleasant Hill Community UCC** announced that it has sent 56 hygiene kits to Church World Service, as effort organized by Sharon Weible. They also held an **Alternative Christmas Fair November 22nd**. With representatives of 21 missions and agencies, members shopped for gifts that keep on giving to others.

Many of those who heard Barack Obama's speech on the occasion of winning the presidential election recall the name **Ann Nixon Cooper** whose story he remembered in the speech. Ms. Cooper is a member of **First Congregational UCC, Atlanta**.

**First Church, Atlanta** also has been selected as a **2008-2009 Mission Year Site by Volunteers in Mission of Wider Church Ministries, UCC**. Three married couples are living the Vine City area of Atlanta, and will serve the communities around Washington High School and University Homes from September 2008–September 2009.

There are two congregations of the Conference that are in the **UCC Partners in Building Program**. Through this program of Local Church Ministries, UCC, they receive support and resources for visioning and equipping their ministries for a five year period as they prepare to receive financing from LCM for a church building. Those congregations are **Unity UCC, Montgomery, AL**, pastor **Bennie Liggins**, and **United Church UCC, Cookeville, TN**, pastor **Tom Eckert**.

**Garden of Grace UCC, Columbia, SC**, has joined with other congregations as a part of a nationwide movement to make a witness at the South Carolina State House in support of **marriage equality**.

*Posted on January 20, 2009*



**Listen to the 2008 Podcasts with leaders making a difference in the UCC.**

Theology Among the People



Check out our Lay Theology Program called "TAP", Theology Among the People. [Click here.](#)



Does your church need to update it's website or develop a brand? [Click here](#) to learn more.



Need books, videos or other resources for your church? Contact the Resource Connection [here](#).



Are you interested in starting a new church or being a part of a new church start? Click [here](#) to learn more about our Church Development program.



Comma Connections are launching in the SEC. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Stay in touch with the work of our national Justice and Witness ministry. Click [here](#) to support this ministry.



## News

## Breaking News

## Concerns &amp; Celebrations

## Conference News &amp; Announcements

## News From Local Congregations

## Resources

## Newsletter

## Voices &amp; Visions

December/January 2009  
 Oct/Nov 2008  
 August/Sept 2008  
 June/July 2008  
 February/March 2008  
 December/January 2008  
 Aug/Sept 2007  
 June/July 2007  
 April/May 2007  
 February/March 2007  
 December/January 2007  
 August/September 2006  
 June/July 2006  
 February/March 2006  
 October 2005  
 July 2005  
 February 2005  
 August 2005  
 May 2005  
 January/February 2005

## Search SEC Website



## Join Our Email List

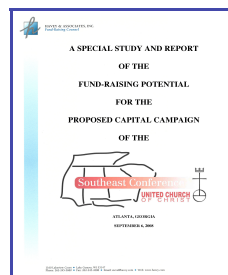
Email:

Privacy by SafeSubscribe<sup>SM</sup>

## Conference News and Announcements

The **Southeast Conference** continues its exploration of the **feasibility of a capital campaign**, and has taken the next step of engaging in an Awareness/Education phase. This will involve five meetings across the conference at which a presentation will be made, and response sought from the ministers and leaders of the churches of the Conference. Those meetings have been scheduled on Saturdays at beginning at 11:00A as follows:

- January 31, 2009 First Congregational UCC, Birmingham
- February 28, 2009 Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville
- March 14, 2009 Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta
- March 28, 2009 Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga
- April 18, 2009 Midway Congregational UCC, Midway, GA



Following a presentation and discussion, there will be a lunch served. All ministers and leaders of the Conference as encouraged coming. There will be no solicitation!

**The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference UCC will be held in the Atlanta area June 12-13**, in a location to be confirmed, and hosted by the UCC congregations of Atlanta. Please circle the dates in your calendar, and look for details as the plans develop. At this time we know that we will be welcoming Steve Sterner, the Acting Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries of the UCC, and a member of Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta. Other keynoters will be announced once confirmed.

**Gary Spencer**, member of **First Congregational UCC, Atlanta**, and of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference was recently elected to represent the SE Conference on the **Board of Trustees of Talladega College**.

**Michael Stroud**, member of **United Church UCC, Huntsville**, has been working on a history of the Southeast Conference with the approval of the Conference Board of Directors in preparation for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Conference in 2016. You can see some of his work about the Conference on Wikipedia.

**Tim Downs** is teaching a course entitled **UCC History and Polity** at Candler School of Theology this semester, with over 12 students enrolled. Many of the resources for the course are available on line, including lectures by General Minister and President, John Thomas, and the Ecumenical Officer of the UCC, Lydia Veliko. Contact him at [tdowns@secucc.org](mailto:tdowns@secucc.org) if you are interested in looking at any of these resources.

As the Conference moves forward into 2009, **we have taken significant steps to reduce the budget of the Conference \$120,000 from 2008 to \$578,000**. There are no raises scheduled for 2009, the Conference has improved its IT capacities with a mind to reduce travel by staff, while increasing contact with local churches. Other proposed cuts to the budget will be brought to the Board of Directors for their approval at their upcoming meeting.

**The Southeast Conference** is continuing to explore ways to strengthen its partnership with **Lancaster Theological Seminary** with which it has collaborated around issues of formation for ministry, the TAP program, and global theological education. Look for signs of this partnership in the upcoming Annual Meeting!

**Circle your calendars for a work camp organized by the Southeast Conference Disaster Assistance Relief Team, November 29–December 5, 2009**. We need 40 people to go to Biloxi MS to assist Back Bay Mission with their continued work to rebuild lost homes from Hurricane Katrina. The cost to the volunteers will be \$100 for lodging and food for the week. Start to recruit groups from your church! For details contact Connie Waidmann at [cbwaidphtn@frontiernet.net](mailto:cbwaidphtn@frontiernet.net)



**Listen to the 2008 Podcasts with leaders making a difference in the UCC.**

Theology Among the People



Check out our Lay Theology Program called "TAP", Theology Among the People. [Click here.](#)



Does your church need to update it's website or develop a brand? [Click here](#) to learn more.



Need books, videos or other resources for your church? Contact the Resource Connection [here](#).



Are you interested in starting a new church or being a part of a new church start? [Click here](#) to learn more about our Church Development program.



Comma Connections are launching in the SEC. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Stay in touch with the work of our national Justice and Witness ministry. [Click here](#) to support this ministry.

or by calling (931) 277-5529.

*Posted on January 20, 2009*

Discover the UCC!

**[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)**

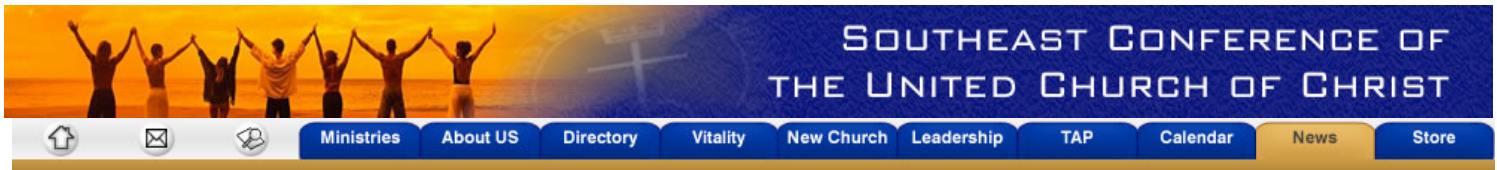
[Ministries](#) | [Forum](#) | [About Us](#) | [Directory](#) | [Vitality](#) | [New Church](#) | [Leadership](#) | [TAP](#) | [Calendars](#) | [News](#) | [Store](#)

Copyright © 2007 - Southeast Conference United Church of Christ

1330 West Peachtree Street, Suite 350, Atlanta, GA 30309

Office: 800.807.1993, Fax: 404.607.7939





# SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ministries About US Directory Vitality New Church Leadership TAP Calendar News Store

## News

### Breaking News

### Concerns & Celebrations

### Conference News & Announcements

### News From Local Congregations

### Resources

### Newsletter

### Voices & Visions

December/January 2009  
Oct/Nov 2008  
August/Sept 2008  
June/July 2008  
February/March 2008  
December/January 2008  
Aug/Sept 2007  
June/July 2007  
April/May 2007  
February/March 2007  
December/January 2007  
August/September 2006  
June/July 2006  
February/March 2006  
October 2005  
July 2005  
February 2005  
August 2005  
May 2005  
January/February 2005

### Search SEC Website

Google Custom Search



### Join Our Email List

Email:  Join

## Concerns and Celebrations



**Larry Calbert** has announced that he celebrates his 20th anniversary as pastor of **Rush Memorial Congregational UCC**, Atlanta, this month. Over the course of this ministry Larry has served in a number of leadership positions, including chair of the Association Church and Ministry Committee, and moderator of the association. Larry currently serves on the Disaster Assistance Relief Team (DART) of the Southeast Conference, covering the states of Georgia and South Carolina.

**Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta**, welcomes its new senior pastor **S. Michael Pater**, who began on January 12th. Michael arrives from Iowa. He serves on the Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries a covenanted ministry of the United Church of Christ.

**Diantha Brown** begins her service as pastor of **First United Church of Christ, Belvidere**, TN this month, following recuperation from back surgery. She is a resident of Pleasant Hill, TN.

**Jeremy Rich** was installed as pastor of **Bethany Congregational UCC**, Thomasville, GA on January 11th. Jeremy is a teacher in the Thomasville schools, and recently moved to Thomasville from Florida. Representing the Conference at the service of installation were Associate Conference Minister **Kathy Clark**, and Conference Minister **Tim Downs**. Representing the Georgia South Carolina Association and preaching for the occasion was **Larry Calbert**, pastor of Rush Memorial UCC, Atlanta.

**Gregg Carlson**, member of **Pilgrimage UCC**, Marietta, GA, and an ordained minister of the Free Methodist Church of N.A., was granted privilege of call by the Georgia-South Carolina Association on January 6th. Gregg is currently serving as the director of operations of the Unity Church North Atlanta, and is seeking a call in the UCC.

A Four Way Covenant Service of Installation for **Robin Lee Fitch**, member of **Central Congregational UCC**, Atlanta, has been scheduled for 4:30 at Central on **Sunday March 1st**. All clergy and leaders of the Georgia-South Carolina Association are encouraged to be present. Robin Lee is called by the Conference to a ministry in private therapy practice.

**Tom Mozley**, member of Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta, APC Certified Chaplain, who recently served at the VA Hospital in Decatur, GA, was granted a leave of absence from ministry January 6th

**Ted Brelsford**, member of **Central Congregational UCC**, Atlanta, and visiting professor at Candler School of Theology, continues to pursue ordination in the UCC through the Georgia-South Carolina Association, having been called to Orchard Park Community Church, outside of Syracuse, NY.



**Elise Elrod**, member of **Holy Trinity Community UCC**, Nashville, ordained Southern Baptist, and granted privilege of call by the Alabama-Tennessee Association in September, 2008, has completed a field placement at Holy Trinity, Nashville, and continues to seek a call in the UCC.

We received word that **Lillian Hallstrand**, member of **Brookmeade Congregational UCC**, Nashville, and a student in care enrolled in Vanderbilt School of Divinity, was married December 22nd, and is now Lillian Hallstrand Strahine. Congratulations!

We were saddened to receive word of the death of the oldest sister of **Ann Schoup** in Pennsylvania the second week of January. Ann is a member of Pleasant Hill Community UCC, and a member of the Conference personnel committee.

We received word that **Ronnie Galvin**, recently called to serve as minister for youth at



**Listen to the 2008 Podcasts with leaders making a difference in the UCC.**

Theology Among the People



Check out our Lay Theology Program called "TAP", Theology Among the People. [Click here.](#)



Does your church need to update it's website or develop a brand? [Click here](#) to learn more.



Need books, videos or other resources for your church? Contact the Resource Connection [here](#).



Are you interested in starting a new church or being a part of a new church start? [Click here](#) to learn more about our Church Development program.



Comma Connections are launching in the SEC. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Stay in touch with the work of our national Justice and Witness ministry. [Click here](#) to support this ministry.

Privacy by  SafeSubscribe<sup>SM</sup>

Discover the UCC!

[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

**First Congregational UCC, Atlanta**, recovered “perfectly” from complicated surgery with an excellent prognosis. Ronnie was operated on at a clinic in Detroit.

Christmas evening, Conference moderator, **Vanessa Robbs** and her mother fled a fire in their home with their pets. They anticipate being able to move back in two to three months, and are grateful to be well and safe.

Conference Minister **Tim Downs** continues to recuperate from surgery December 17th. He is back to work on a reduced schedule through January and doing very well. He is grateful for the many prayers and good wishes.

**Tom Eckert** announced that December 28th was his last Sunday as part-time pastor of **United Church UCC Cookeville**, TN where he had served for 5 ½ years. This marks the end of 57 years of worship leadership over the course of a long and remarkable ministry. Tom had served as interim minister at Fairfield Glade Community Church, TN, some years ago. United Church Cookeville is close to calling a full-time pastor following a lengthy search.

**Candace Chellew Hodges**, associate pastor at **Garden of Grace UCC**, Columbia, SC, announced that her recently published book “Bulletproof Faith: A spiritual Survival Guide for Gay and Lesbian Christians” has been named one of the top spiritual books of 2008 by Spirituality and Practice. Here is a link to a review: <http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/books/features.php?id=18256>

***If there is news that you wish to have shared with others in the Southeast Conference family, please contact Tim at [tdowns@secucc.org](mailto:tdowns@secucc.org).***

*Posted on January 20, 2009*

[Ministries](#) | [Forum](#) | [About Us](#) | [Directory](#) | [Vitality](#) | [New Church](#) | [Leadership](#) | [TAP](#) | [Calendars](#) | [News](#) | [Store](#)

Copyright © 2007 - Southeast Conference United Church of Christ  
1330 West Peachtree Street, Suite 350, Atlanta, GA 30309  
Office: 800.807.1993, Fax: 404.607.7939